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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: S-12

Date 12-11-06

By Angela Leding  
Angela Leding

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): David C. Hovda et al.

Serial No.: 10/656,597

Filing Date: September 5, 2003

Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR  
TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS

Examiner: Rollins, Rosiland Stacie

Group Art Unit: 3739

Confirmation No.: 7953

Response to Final Office Action

**MAIL STOP – AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed October 10, 2006, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments set forth below and request favorable action thereon.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.

J.F.  
10/10/07  
Entered w/ RCE